

MEMORIAL

OF SUNDRY

JOURNEYMEN TAILORS, OF PHILADELPHIA,

PRAYING THAT

PROTECTION BE EXTENDED TO THEM,

BY THE

REGULATION OF THE DUTY ON READY MADE CLOTHING, &c.

MAY 1, 1828.

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MEMORIAL.

*To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States, in Congress assembled;*

The petition of the Journeymen Tailors of Philadelphia,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That your petitioners are a very numerous class of tradesmen, who depend on their personal employment for the support of themselves and their families.

They have existed from the earliest settlement of the country, and have regularly increased with its increasing population.

They have never asked protection for their craft from either State or General Government, believing that their employment was required by the absolute wants of their fellow-citizens, and was as sure as the existence of the governments themselves.

They never looked for a retrograde march of domestic industry, in a government which had been, from its infancy, regularly advancing, step by step, to a complete independence of all foreign nations in the arts of life, and which looked, at no distant period, not only to an entire emancipation from them, but to a reciprocation with them of the products of skill and industry.

They have been roused from their supposed security by the most alarming apprehensions of being thrown out of employment by the tariff bill now pending before you; which, in its present form, admits much of the coarser clothing, *ready made*, cheaper than the material itself from which it is made; and all other clothing at a price so low as to destroy competition with the foreign artist. Should this unhappy state of things happen, your petitioners will be deprived, in the season of their calamity, of even the miserable solace that their suffering is necessary for the public good; and they will have the mortification to know that by the bounty virtually granted by their own government, on the import of ready made clothing, the "bread taken from the mouth of labor" at home, is consumed by their thankless and powerful rivals abroad.

They regret at this late hour to be obliged to trouble you with this petition, but they never, until very lately, discovered the ruinous tendency of which they complain. There is nothing in the bill itself to excite apprehension; it is only in the want of a correspondent provision for ready made clothing.

But they trust that, late as it is, your honorable Houses will not refuse to listen to the claims of justice, nor to the supplication of a large and dependent class of your fellow-citizens, to spare their means of subsistence, which are in danger of being taken from them, without a shadow of public good to justify it, in contravention of the spirit of the very law which sacrifices them, and to the manifest danger of the public revenue.

Many others are deeply interested in this subject. The importer and retailer of merchandise for clothing, and the manufacturer of cloth, are apt to make themselves heard when their interests are touched, and will doubtless, on this occasion, if they should awake in time to a sense of them. The evil which your petitioners apprehend, is not so limited as at first view it may appear, but there is no class that will feel it so immediately, and are so little able to bear it, as your petitioners.

They therefore respectfully pray, that you will take the case into your serious consideration, and protect them from the evils which they so earnestly deprecate.